Disaster Management in Oil Industry

1184. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent explosion at the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery complex in Visakhapatnam on 14th September, has thrown up question about the design and disaster management systems in Oil Industry;

(b) if so, whether the refineries and other similar installations, vulnerable to fire hazards, are strictly following the safety measures and other guidelines;

(c) whether any detailed enquiry has been instituted to find out the cause of this fire, resulting in death of 56 persons; and

(d) if so, the findings of such an enquiry and the remedial measures being proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) the refineries are following the safety measures and other guidelines recommended by the Statutory Bodies. The safety design and procedures/practices are as per the guidelines of Oil Industry Safety Directorate and Petroleum Act/Rules. Offsite and onsite Disaster Management Systems also exists at refineries covering various industries and other agencies like District Authorities, Fire Department, etc.

(c) and (d) Gvoernment has on 11.10.1997 set up a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, to enquire into this accident. The Commission has been asked to submit its report within a period of three months.

HPCL Pipeline

1185. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capital structure of the proposed pipeline project of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the debt incurred on this project;

(c) the other financial aspects of this project;

(d) whether any internal financing is there;

(e) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(f) any other relevant details of this pipeline project in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The Visakh-Vijayawada Pipeline project of HPCL which was approved by Government on 20th June, 1995, at an estimated cost of Rs. 521.61 crores, with FE component of Rs. 36.31 crores, is being financed 50% through loan and 50% through internal resources of HPCL. As of September 1997, the debt incurred by HPCL through loans from the Oil Industry Development Board is Rs. 162.03 crores. The pipeline is scheduled to be commissioned within 36 months from the date of Government approval.

Non-Extension of Promotional Benefits

1186. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact what ONGC did not extend promotional benefits to about 400 employees belonging to N.E. Region in disregard of ONGC, R&P Regulations 1980 and the decision of Guwahati High Court of 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details of non-extension of benefits; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing the relevant court orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir, it is not a fact that in disregard to its R&P Regulations, 1980

promotional benefits have not been extended by ONGC Ltd. to its employees in N.E. Region. The writ petition filed by Shri C.R. Gogoi & 16 others vs. ONGC (CR No. 119893) is under appeal before the Division Bench of High Court of Guwahati and the final decision in this regard is awaited.

Diversification by Oil Companies

1187. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for diversification by oil Companies in such fields as power generation, Petro-Chemicals and export, before the proposed deregulation of oil sector, which would enable multinationals to operate in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Distribution in Masi, Almora

1188. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representations from Public at large and some Members of Parliament for opening an extension point for distribution of LPG at Masi in District Almora, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details therof;

(c) the impediments for opening the said extension point which would cater to a large number of residents of nearby densely populated villages; and

(d) by when the said extension point is expected to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) M/s Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam have requested IOC for opening of extension point at Masi.

(c) and (d) Government have recently taken a decision to permit extension point in hilly areas beyond 15 KMs but not beyond 50 KMs from the main distributor point. Since Masi is located beyond 50 KMs from the nearest distributor M/s Ranikhet Gas Service, it is not covered under the policy. M/s Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam has not therefore taken up the case of Masi in their subsequent proposals submitted by them to Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Deduction of FPF Amount

1189. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited already deducted FPF amount from the pay of employees w.e.f. 16th November, 1995 to till date;

(b) whether Petroleum Ministry feels that Indian Oil Corporation's actions for deduction of FPF amount w.e.f. 16th November, 1995 onwards is legal according to Act No. 25. of 1996;

(c) whether the said deductions of FPF amount w.e.f 16th November, 1995 till date have been refunded to each employees in cash alongwith the cumulative interest;

(d) if so, when it was paid and the reasons for delay in refund to the employees; and

(e) whether Ministry will taken any legal action or action against Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has reported that no amount has been deducted by them from pay of their employees specifically towards FPF with effect from 16th November 1995 till date. However, in Marketing Division amount is being